

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,805,816 of Picazo Jr. et al. ("Picazo").

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (e) as being unpatentable over Picazo.

Specifically, the Examiner states in part that

Picazo et al disclose a first device and a second device in a connecting the first device and the second device to a plurality of interfaces; and emulating a single high-speed interface with the plurality of interfaces such as the computer connect to hub/bridge/router [fig1] which has plurality of interfaces such as a plurality of fiber optics ports [col 6 line 61].

(10/7/98 Office Action, p. 2).

Applicants submit that Picazo does not render claims 1-37, unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (e).

Picazo discloses a hub circuit with an integrated bridge circuit carried out in software including a switch for bypassing the bridge process such that the two bridged networks effectively become one network. An in-band management process in software is disclosed which receives and executes network management commands received as data packets from the LANs coupled to the integrated hub/bridge. Also, hardware and software to implement an isolate mode where data packets which would ordinarily be transferred by the bridge process are not transferred except in-band management process regardless of which network from which they arrived. Also disclosed, is packet switching machine having shared high-speed memory with multiple ports, one port

coupled to a plurality of LAN controller chips coupled to individual LAN segments and an Ethernet microprocessor that sets up and manages a receive buffer for storing received packets and transferring pointers thereto to a main processor. The main processor is coupled to another port of the memory and analyzes received packets for bridging to other LAN segments or forwarding to an SNMP agent. The main micro-processor and the Ethernet processor coordinate to manage the utilization of storage locations in the shared memory. Another port is coupled to an uplink interface to higher speed backbone media such as FDDI, ATM etc. Speeds up to media rate are achieved by only moving pointers to packets around in memory as opposed to the data of the packets itself. A double password security feature is also implemented in some embodiments to prevent accidental or intentional tampering with system configuration settings (See Picazo Abstract).

Picazo does not teach or suggest a method for interconnecting a first device and a second device in a network including connecting the first device and the second device to a plurality of interfaces, and emulating a single high-speed interface with the plurality of interfaces.

On the contrary, Figure 1 in Picazo shows a fiber optic hub 12 which has a plurality of fiber optics ports indicated generally at 14. Each of these ports is connected to a fiber optic physical data transmission media via a port driver. Each of the fiber optic media is indicated by a line with three slash marks through it. As shown in Figure 1, each fiber optic physical data transmission media connects the fiber optic hub 12 to a separate physical device. A first fiber optic media is connected to a first main frame computer 16. A second fiber optic media is connected to a second main frame computer 18. A third fiber optic media is connected to a laser printer 20. A fourth fiber optic

media is connected to a first personal computer 22. A fifth fiber optic media is connected to a second personal computer 24, and a sixth fiber optic media is connected to a third personal computer 26 (see Picazo Figure 1, and col. 6, lines 60-67). The fiber optic hub 12 is not connected to the first main frame computer 16, the second main frame computer 18, the laser printer 20, the first personal computer 22, the second personal computer 24, or the third personal computer 26 via a plurality of the fiber optic data transmission media. Furthermore, the plurality of the fiber optic data transmission media are not used to emulate a single high-speed interface. Each fiber optic media connects the fiber optic hub 12 to a separate physical device (see Picazo Figure 1).

In contrast, Claim 1 states

A method for interconnecting a first device and a second device in a network, comprising the step of:
connecting the first device and the second device to a plurality of interfaces; and
emulating a single high-speed interface with the plurality of interfaces.

(Claim 1) (Emphasis added). Claims 19 includes similar limitations. Claims 14, and 32 include the limitation of emulating a single high-speed interface with the plurality of interfaces.

Applicants submit that Picazo does not teach or suggest a method for creating a multi-interface connection that connects a first device and a second device including assigning a first identifier to a first interface and a second interface at the first device, and identifying a path between the first device and the second device with the first identifier.

The Examiner states that

As per claim 6 Picazo disclose assigning a first identifier to a first interface and a second interface at the first device such as The Ethernet processor 804 then assigns each particular LAN Controller Chip to a unique descriptor

dedicated to supporting only that LAN Controller Chip; and identifying a path between the first device to the second device with the first identifier such as when the bridge is active, only traffic on bus which has a destination address identifying a machine connected to local area network 2 will get through to LAN 2. By this rationale claim 6 is rejected.

(10/7/98 Office Action, p. 3).

On the contrary, applicants submit that the descriptor which the Examiner is referring to is only a descriptor in high speed memory 800 that represent unique range of addresses in the high speed memory for the Lan Controller Chip LCC #1 and Lan Controller Chip LCC #2 (see Picazo col. 30, line 58 through col. 31, line 21). The descriptor is not a first identifier that identifies a first interface and a second interface that is used as a path between a first device and a second device.

In contrast, claim 6 states

A method for creating a multi-interface connection that connects a first device and a second device, comprising the steps of:

assigning a first identifier to a first interface and a second interface at the first device; and
identifying a path between the first device to the second device with the first identifier.

(Claim 6) Emphasis added. Claim 24 includes similar limitations.

Applicants submit that since claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-31, and 33-37 are dependent on claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 24, and 32, claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-31, and 33-37 are also patentable over Picazo under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (e).

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-37, should be found in condition for allowance.


Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application as amended.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666.

Very truly yours,

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